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09/843,197	04/26/2001	Patrick Chiu	FXPL1024US0	8826

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EXAMINER

HUYNH, CONG LAC T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2178

DATE MAILED: 12/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/843,197

Applicant(s)

CHIU ET AL.

Examiner

Cong-Lac Huynh

Art Unit

2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,8 and 10-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,8 and 10-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: amendment filed 10/12/05 to the application filed on 4/26/01.
2. Claims 1, 4, 8, 10-20 are pending in the case. Claims 1 and 15 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).
5. Claims 1, 4, 11-12, 14-20 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stifelman et al., The Audio Notebook, Paper and Pen Interaction with

Structured Speech, SIGCHI'S 01, March 31-April 4, 2001, vol. 3, Iss. 1, ACM 2001, pages 182-189, in view of Arons et al. (US Pat No. 6,529,920 B1, 3/4/03, filed 3/5/99).

Regarding independent claim 1, Stifelman discloses:

- receiving a notation from a notetaking user during a meeting (**page 182, Abstract, Introduction, page 183, Audio Notebook Version 1**: synchronizing user's handwritten notes during a meeting with a digital audio recording and indexing the written notes and audio indicate receiving notes from a user during a meeting)
- automatically recording an index value for the notation, the index value based on the context of the notation (**page 182, Introduction**: "The Audio Notebook *synchronizes the user's handwritten notes with a digital audio recording*. The user's natural activity – writing and page turns – *implicitly indexes the audio* for later retrieval ..."; **page 183, Prior Work in Indexing Audio** : "The AIR project (Activity-based Information Retrieval) proposed employing user activity (e.g. *notetaking*, writing on whiteboards, user location) *to index multimedia data* ... Audio Notebooks *links audio recording to notes taken* on paper and provides several techniques to access the audio ... Dynamite *indexes audio with notetaking activity* on a pen-based computer. Users can manually assign keywords to pages of notes ... *the audio and video are indexed by all notes written on, or beamed to, the LiveBoard*, and by pages changes on the LiveBoard")

- receiving a quantity of multimedia information from at least one multimedia source (**page 183, Prior Work in Indexing Audio**: the fact that the multimedia data as audio and video are indexed by all notes written, implies that a quantity of multimedia information from at least one multimedia source, audio source and video source, is received)
- automatically selecting at least one portion of the quantity of the multimedia information based on the index value of the notation (**page 183, Prior Work in Indexing Audio**: “The audio and video are indexed by all notes written on, or beamed to, the LiveBoard, and by page changes on the LiveBoard ...”; **page 183, Audio Notebook Version 1**: “An early version of the Audio Notebook [7] demonstrated the basic concept of linking notes on paper with an audio recording. This early prototype showed the concept of automatic page number detection, and selecting on the page to begin audio playback (Fig. 1) ... *Playback begins at the point in the audio recording that corresponds to when the note was originally written* ... Dragging the pen along an audio scrollbar navigates a timeline of the audio associated with each page ...”; **pages 183-184, Audio Scrollbar with Audio Cursor**: “when a user *selects somewhere on a page to begin playback, the audio cursor lights up showing the corresponding location in the timeline ..*”))
- automatically creating an association between the notation and the selected portion of the quantity of multimedia information, where the association enables access to the selected portion of the quantity of multimedia information (**page**

182, Introduction : synchronizing between the user's written notes and the audio recording and indexing the recorded audio based on the user's notetaking for later retrieval of audio show an association between the notation and the correspondent audio where the association enables access to the selected multimedia for retrieval; **page 183, Prior Work in Indexing Audio**: "the Audio Notebook links audio recording to notes taken on paper and provides several techniques to access the audio", "Classroom 2000 [1] captures audio, video, and slides, and links it to notes taken on tablet computers and electronic whiteboards. Access to the captured material is through an HTML-based web browser"; **page 183, Audio Notebook Version 1**: "An early version of the Audio Notebook [7] demonstrated the basic concept of linking notes on paper with an audio recording. This early prototype showed the concept of automatic page number detection, and selecting on the page to begin audio playback")

- storing the notation and the association for retrieval at a future time, where the future time is one of a time during the meeting and a time after the meeting (**page 182, Introduction** : Synchronizing between the user's written notes and the audio recording and indexing the recorded audio based on the user's notetaking for later retrieval of audio show that the notation and the corresponding audio recorded are stored for later retrieval; **page 183, Audio Notebook Version 1**: playback the recorded audio based on the selected page of the taken notes indicates that the notation taken by a user and the association of the written notes and the recorded audio are stored for retrieval later at a

future time; *the later retrieval* implies that retrieval can occur any time after recording data, and thus further implies that “later” or the future time is one of a time during the meeting and a time after the meeting; **page 183, Audio**

Notebook Version 1: the fact that *after recording the audio of a lecture or meeting* based upon the notetaking by a user, *the audio can be accessed by space or by time* indicates that retrieving the recorded audio can be made any time, i.e. during the meeting, as long as it occurs after the audio recording; in other words, the future time can be during the meeting)

- wherein a single action by the notetaking user initiates the steps of receiving the notation, recording, selecting, creating and storing (**page 182, Introduction, page 183, Audio Notebook Version 1:** as mentioned above, Stifelman discloses that the user’s natural activity, such as writing and page turns, *implicitly indexes the audio* for later retrieval, *the audio and video are indexed by all notes written on, or beamed to, the LiveBoard, and Playback begins at the point in the audio recording that corresponds to when the note was originally written*; the fact that the audio and video are indexed when the note was originally written, linking audio recording to notes taken on paper, and playback the recorded audio based on the selected page of the taken notes inherently indicates that **based on receiving a note written by a user**, the index is **recorded** corresponding to the **selected** audio and video where said index recording shows **the creation of the association** between the taken notes and related multimedia which is **stored** for

playback and retrieval later on; in other words, the notetaking of a user initiates the steps of recording, selecting, creating, and storing)

Stifelman does not disclose that the future time for retrieving the stored notation and the association is a time during the meeting.

Arons discloses that the future time for retrieving the stored notation and the association is a time during the meeting (col 3, lines 30-67: the fact that users can select any word, drawing, or mark on a page to *instantly cue playback* to the time around *when the mark was made* where marking was made on the page of the notation during the meeting, interview, lectures, in-person conversation, etc and the playback implies that the stored notation and multimedia is retrieved to be played).

It would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have combined Arons into Stifelman since Arons teaches that the future time for retrieving the stored notation and the association is during the meeting providing the advantage to incorporate into Stifelman for offering to users more capabilities to retrieve the stored notation and the associated multimedia during the meeting instead of after the meeting only.

Regarding claim 4, which is dependent on claim 1, Stifelman discloses that the quantity of multimedia information includes information for accessing a second quantity of multimedia information (page 183, Prior Work in Indexing Audio: the fact that the audio and video are indexed by all notes written on, or beamed to, the LiveBoard indicates

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that beside the audio, video is the second multimedia information to access while taking notes).

Regarding claim 11, which is dependent on claim 8, Stifelman discloses:

- receiving a quantity of information from a user (page 186, Use of the Audio Recordings: the fact that a student adds information to her notes shows that the information is received from a user)
- revising at least one of the stored notations and its respective association in response to the quantity of information received from the user (**page 186, Use of the Audio Recordings:** *marking* in the notes, *writing something* in the notes, and *adding more details* into the notes by a user are actions to *revise* the stored notations and its respective association in response to the information such as text written to notes or details added to the notes received from a user)

Regarding claim 12, which is dependent on claim 11, Stifelman discloses that the quantity of information received from a user includes a copy of at least a portion of the plurality of notations, where the user has altered at least one of the plurality of notations to indicate the desired revision (**page 186, Review Session:** a user can add a few annotations to a note such as *putting star symbols next to important areas* or *marking things in a note to review* where the star symbols or the mark made by a user have altered at least one of the plurality of notes to indicate the desired revision).

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Regarding claim 14, which is dependent on claim 13, Stifelman discloses that the quantity of information received from a user includes a copy of at least a portion of the plurality of notations, where the user has altered at least one of the plurality of notations to indicate the desired revision (**page 186, Review Session**: a user can add a few annotations to a note such as *putting star symbols next to important areas* or *marking things in a note to review* where the star symbols or the mark have altered at least one of the plurality of notes to indicate the desired revision).

Claims 15-16 are for an apparatus of method claim 1, and are rejected under the same rationale.

Claims 17-18 are for an apparatus of method claims 11-12, and are rejected under the same rationale.

Claims 19-20 are for an apparatus of method claims 6-7, and are rejected under the same rationale.

6. Claim 8 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stifelman in view of Arons as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Davis et al., NotePals: Lightweight Note Sharing by the Group, for the Group, ACM 1999, pages 338-345 (IDS submitted by Applicants).

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Regarding claim 8, which is dependent on claim 1, Stifelman discloses that the steps of receiving a notation, recording, receiving a quantity of information, selecting, creating, and storing are repeated for a plurality of notations (**page 183, Prior Work in Indexing, Audio Notebook Version 1:** the fact that the audio and video are indexed when the note was originally written, linking audio recording to notes taken on paper, where the note, audio and video data are a quantity of information are received, and playback the recorded audio based on the selected page of the taken notes inherently indicates that ***based on receiving a note written by a user***, the index is recorded corresponding to the selected audio and video where said index recording shows the creation of the association between the taken notes and related multimedia which is stored for playback and retrieval later on; **page 183, Prior Work in Indexing Audio:** the fact that the audio and video are *indexed by all notes written on, or beamed to, the LiveBoard, or capturing audio, video, and slides and linking it to notes taken on tablet computers and electronic whiteboards indicates that the claimed steps are repeated for a plurality of notations).*

Stifelman does not disclose transmitting the plurality of notations and their respective association via an electronic network to at least one user for future retrieval by said user.

However, Stifelman does teach the linking of captured multimedia and the notes taken on tablet computers and electronic whiteboards and access to the captured multimedia is through an HTML-based web browser (page 183, Prior Work in Indexing Audio).

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Davis discloses the group members in a meeting can retrieve and view the notes taken with browsers (**page 338, abstract**) and automatically capturing notes taken in any context and making those notes and the related documents accessible to an entire workgroup via the web (**page 338, Introduction**).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have combined Davis into Stifelman for the following reason. Davis discloses the ability to *access notes to an entire workgroup via the web and retrieving notes during a meeting using the web browser* providing the advantage to incorporate into accessing the captured multimedia related to the notes taken in Stifelman via the web browser for transmitting the notes and their respective association, which are the related multimedia of the notes, via an electronic network, which is the web, to groups of users instead of limiting the use of taken notes and related audio and video in a meeting by a user.

7. Claims 10 and 13 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stifelman in view of Arons and Davis as applied to claims 1 and 9 above, and further in view of Mora et al. (US Pat No. 6,161,113, 12/12/00, 1/20/98, priority 1/21/97).

Regarding claim 10, which is dependent on claim 8, Stifelman, Arons and Davis do not disclose that a plurality of the notations and their respective associations are transmitted via an electronic mail message.

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Mora discloses sending the meeting minutes to the attendees of the meeting via email (col 14, lines 34-52).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have combined Mora into Stifelman, Arons and Davis since Mora can send the meeting minutes to the attendees of the meeting via email providing the advantage to incorporate into Stifelman, Arons, and Davis for rapidly distributing notes taken and associated multimedia in the meeting to the meeting attendees.

Regarding claim 13, which is dependent on claim 8, Stifelman discloses that the quantity of information received from a user includes a copy of at least a portion of the plurality of notations, where the user has altered at least one of the plurality of notations to indicate the desired revision (**page 186, Review Session:** a user can add a few annotations to a note such as *putting star symbols next to important areas* or *marking things in a note to review* where the star symbols or the mark have altered the at least a portion one of the notes).

Stifelman does not disclose that in step transmitting, the plurality of notations and the respective notations are transmitted as an electronic mail message via an electronic mail network, the electronic mail message containing a predetermined electronic mail address, and in the step of receiving a quantity of information from a user, the quantity of information is received via the predetermined electronic mail address.

Mora discloses sending the meeting minutes to the attendees of the meeting via email (col 14, lines 34-52).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have combined Mora into Stifelman and Davis since Mora can send the meeting minutes to the attendees of the meeting via email providing the advantage to incorporate electronic mail network for sending the notes taken and the associated multimedia since the meeting minutes, which are records of a meeting, thus include also the notes taken during the meeting as in Stifelman and Davis. In addition, the fact that Mora uses the email system for sending meeting minutes to the attendees of the meeting suggests that the email receiver have a predetermined electronic mail address.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed 10/12/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants address that Stifelman is not available to be combined with Arons in the claim 1, 4, 11-12, 14-20 rejections in view of the submission of the Declaration (Remarks, page 7).

However, the claim rejection remains since the submitted declaration is ineffective to overcome the Stifelman reference as mentioned in the Response to the Amendment below.

Response to Amendments

9. The declaration filed on 10/12/05 under 37 CFR 1.131 has been considered but is ineffective to overcome the Stifelman reference.

The declarations were not signed by all the co-inventors and a petition under 37 CFR 1.47 in this application was not granted. MPEP 715.04 (A-D) states:

"The following parties may make an affidavit or declaration under 37 CFR 1.131:

(A) All the inventors of the subject matter claimed.

(B) An affidavit or declaration by less than all named inventors of an application is accepted where it is shown that less than all named inventors of an application invented the subject matter of the claim or claims under rejection. For example, one of two joint inventors is accepted where it is shown that one of the joint inventors is the sole inventor of the claim or claims under rejection.

*(C) **> If a petition under 37 CFR 1.47 was granted or the application was accepted under 37 CFR 1.42 or 1.43, the affidavit or declaration may be signed by the 37 CFR 1.47 applicant or the legal representative, where appropriate.< .*

(D) The assignee or other party in interest when it is not possible to produce the affidavit or declaration of the inventor. Ex parte Foster, 1903 C.D. 213, 105 O.G. 261 (Comm'r Pat. 1903).

Affidavits or declarations to overcome a rejection of a claim or claims must be made by the inventor or inventors of the subject matter of the rejected claim(s), a party qualified under 37 CFR 1.42, 1.43, or 1.47, or the assignee or other party in interest when it is not possible to produce the affidavit or declaration of the inventor(s). Thus, where all of the named inventors of a pending application are not inventors of every claim of the application, any affidavit under 37 CFR 1.131 could be signed by only the inventor(s) of the subject matter of the rejected claims. Further, where it is shown that a joint inventor is deceased, refuses to sign, or is otherwise unavailable, the signatures of the remaining joint inventors are sufficient. However, the affidavit or declaration, even

though signed by fewer than all the joint inventors, must show completion of the invention by all of the joint inventors of the subject matter of the claim(s) under rejection. In re Carlson, 79 F.2d 900, 27 USPQ 400 (CCPA 1935)"

As stated above, a petition under 37 CFR 1.47 is required, 37 CFR 1.47 states in part:

"The oath or declaration in such an application must be accompanied by a petition including proof of the pertinent facts, the fee set forth in § 1.17(h), and the last known address of the nonsigning inventor."

Applicants should consider filing the declarations and petition by the assignee of the invention, in the case where it is not possible to have the signatures of all the co-inventors. See MPEP 715.04 (D).

In the interest of compact prosecution, the Examiner has considered the content of the declarations below:

*"In general, proof of actual reduction to practice requires a showing that the apparatus actually existed and worked for its intended purpose. However, "there are some devices so simple that a mere construction of them is all that is necessary to constitute reduction to practice." In re Asahi/America Inc., **>68 F.3d 442, 37 USPQ2d 1204, 1206< (Fed. Cir. 1995) (Citing Newkirk v. *>Lulejian<, 825 F.2d 1581, 3USPQ2d 1793 (Fed. Cir. 1987) and Sachs v. Wadsworth, 48 F.2d 928, 929, 9 USPQ 252, 253 (CCPA 1931). The claimed restraint coupling held to be so simple a device that mere construction of it was sufficient to constitute reduction to practice. Photographs, coupled with articles and a technical report describing the coupling in detail were sufficient to show reduction to practice.)" (MPEP 715.07 III)*

"For an actual reduction to practice, the invention must have been sufficiently tested to demonstrate that it will work for its intended purpose, but it need not be in a commercially satisfactory stage of development. If a device is so simple, and its purpose and efficacy so obvious, construction alone is sufficient to demonstrate workability. King Instrument Corp. v. Otari Corp., 767 F.2d 853, 860, 226 USPQ 402, 407 (Fed. Cir. 1985). For additional cases pertaining to the requirements necessary to establish actual reduction to practice see DSL Dynamic Sciences, Ltd. v. Union Switch & Signal, Inc., 928 F.2d 1122, 1126, 18 USPQ2d 1152, 1155 (Fed. Cir. 1991) ("events occurring after an alleged actual reduction to practice can call into question whether reduction to practice has in fact occurred"); Corona v. Dovan, 273 U.S. 692, 1928 C.D. 252 (1928) ("A process is reduced to practice when it is successfully performed. A machine is reduced to practice when it is assembled, adjusted and used. A manufacture [i.e., article of manufacture] is reduced to practice when it is completely manufactured. A composition of matter is reduced to practice when it is completely composed." 1928 C.D. at 262-263 (emphasis added).); Fitzgerald v. Arbib, 268 F.2d 763, 765-66, 122 USPQ 530, 531-32 (CCPA 1959) ("the reduction to practice of a three-dimensional design invention requires the production of an article embodying that design" in "other than a mere drawing")" (MPEP 2138.05).

Exhibits A-C, submitted as computer files, do not constitute an actual reduction to practice since it is not clear how these files are related to the claimed limitations. The Declaration does not show the mapping of the claims and the features in the exhibits A-C to establish the possession of the invention. Statements "the prototype embodiment of the invention contained all the elements of claim 1 as described and claimed in the above U.S. patent application" or "the prototype demonstrated to the meeting embodied

meeting embodied all elements of claim 1 of the invention described and claimed in the above U.S. patent application" are so vague statements. Only the filling of a US patent application which complies with the disclosure requirement of 35 USC 112 constitutes a constructive reduction to practice. Accordingly, Applicants have not established prior invention. The rejection, thus, is maintained.

Conclusion

10. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Schmidt et al. (US Pat No. 6,418,457, 7/9/02, filed 12/10/97).

McIntosh (US Pat App Pub No. 2002/0010708, 1/24/02, priority 10/21/98).

Nicastro et al. (US Pat App Pub No. 2002/0073114, 6/13/02, priority 10/30/00).

Cantwell et al. (US Pat App Pub No. 2001/0034738, 10/25/01, priority 2/22/00).

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cong-Lac Huynh whose telephone number is 571-272-4125. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8:30-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on 571-272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-4125.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Cong-Lac Huynh
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2178
12/19/05